AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A n~~N~~etwork comprising:

a plurality of nodes including a first and a second node; and

a communications channel interconnecting the nodes for data exchange between the

nodes,~~;~~

wherein ~~at least a~~ the first node ~~of the nodes is at least one of~~ and the second node are at

least one of parameterized and configured by storing node-specific data, the node-specific data

relates to the node being at least one of parameterized and configured,~~;~~

wherein, when newly connected to the network, each of the first and second nodes is

adapted to transmit via the communication channel the stored node-specific data of the

respective node to the other of the first and second nodes,

wherein ~~at least a second of the~~ each of the first and second nodes ~~nodes~~ comprises a

memory in which the transmitted node-specific data~~,~~ for the ~~at least one of~~ other ~~parameterizing~~

~~and configuring the first~~ node~~, are~~ is stored,~~;~~ the other node being at least one of parameterized

and configured, ~~wherein the first node, when newly connected to the network, is adapted to~~

~~transmit the stored node-specific data to the second node;~~ and

wherein, when the first node is replaced or is resuming operation, the second node ~~is~~

~~adapted to store the transmitted node-specific data of the first node in the memory of the second~~

~~node and to transmit~~ transmits the node-specific data of the first node via the communications

channel to the first node <u>and the first node executes at least one of parameterizing and configuring the first node using the transmitted node-specific data</u>, ~~for at least one of reparameterizing and reconfiguring the first node, if the first node is replacing a replaced first node or is resuming operation~~.

2. (original): Network as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the first node and the second node are adjacent in the network.

3. (original): Network as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the first node is adapted to transmit changes in the node-specific data to the second node, in order to update memory contents.

4. (currently amended): Network as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the ~~first~~ <u>second</u> node is adapted to request, when cold restarted after the ~~first~~ <u>second</u> node has been connected to the network as a replacement of a node of a same type or after operability of the ~~first~~ <u>second</u> node has been restored following a failure, that the ~~second~~ <u>first</u> node transmit the node-specific data to the ~~first~~ <u>second</u> node, for the at least one of reparameterizing and reconfiguring the ~~first~~ <u>second</u> node, via the communications channel.

5. (currently amended): <u>A n</u>~~N~~ode for a network having a plurality of nodes and a communications channel interconnecting the nodes, wherein:

the node is adapted to be at least one of parameterized and configured by storing node-specific data,

the node is adapted, when newly connected to the network, to transmit the stored node-specific data to another of the plurality of nodes of the network,

the node is adapted to store node-specific data of the other node received from the other node via the communication channel, and

the node is adapted to request, when cold restarted after having been connected to the network as a replacement of a node of a same type or after operability of the node has been restored following a failure, that the other node transmit the node-specific data, for at least one of reparameterizing and reconfiguring the node via the communications channel, and

in response to a request from the other node, transmits the stored node-specific data of the other node to the other node.

6. (currently amended): Node for a network having a plurality of nodes and a communications channel interconnecting the nodes,

comprising a memory in which node-specific data for at least one of parameterizing and configuring another of the nodes are stored,

wherein the node is adapted to store in the memory received node-specific data of the other node and to transmit the received data via the communications channel to the other node for at least one of reparameterizing and reconfiguring the other node when the other node is replacing a replaced other node or is resuming operation,

wherein the node is one of a switch, a stored-program controller, and a measuring

transducer, and

wherein the node-specific data relates to executing at least one of configuration and

parameterization one of the switch, the stored-program controller, and the measuring transducer.

7. (currently amended): A method comprising:

storing data specific to a first node in a second node of a network of nodes interconnected

by a communications channel and storing data specific to the second node in the first node;

transmitting the data specific to the first node from the second node to the first node in

response to ~~an~~ a first event and transmitting the data specific to the second node from the first

node to the second node in a response to a second event; and

utilizing the transmitted data specific to the first node in the first node to render the first

node operational in the network when the first event occurs and utilizing the transmitted data

specific to the second node in the second node to render the second node operational in the

network when the second event occurs.

8. (original): The method according to Claim 7, wherein the event is a restart of the first

node.

9. (original): The method according to Claim 7, wherein the event is a start of an

inserted, functioning first node replacing a removed, defective first node.

10. (original): The method according to Claim 7, wherein the data comprise parameterization data.

11. (original): The method according to Claim 7, wherein the data comprise configuration data.

12. (currently amended): The method according to Claim 7, wherein the first and second nodes are transducers~~further comprising transmitting the data from the first node to the second node in response to another event~~.

13. (currently amended): The method according to Claim 12, wherein ~~the other event is an update of the data specific to the first node~~ the node-specific data are parameters related to tasks of a respective transducer.

14. (currently amended): A network comprising:

a plurality of nodes;

a communications channel interconnecting the nodes;

wherein a first of said nodes comprises:

a first memory configured to store data specific to said first node; and

wherein a second of said nodes comprises:

a second memory configured to store the data specific to said first node;

a third memory configured to store data specific to said second node; and

6

a port configured to transmit the data specific to said first node from said second

node to said first node when the first node is replaced or is resuming operation,

wherein the data specific to said first node and said second node comprises data related to

at least one of parameterization of respective node and configuration of the respective node.

15. (canceled).

16. (original): The network according to Claim 15, wherein said first node further

comprises:

a fourth memory configured to store data specific to said second node.

17. (new): The network according to claim 1, wherein when the second node is replaced

or is resuming operation, the first node transmits the node-specific data of the second node via

the communications channel to the second node and the second node parameterizes and

configures using the transmitted node-specific data.

18. (new): The network according to claim 14, wherein a third of said nodes comprises:

a fifth memory configured to store the data specific to said first node,

a sixth memory configured to store the data specific to said second node, and

a seventh memory configured to store the data specific to said third node,

wherein said first node transmits the data specific to said first node to said second node,

wherein said second node transmits the data specific to said first node and the data

specific to said second node to said third node.

19. (new): The network according to claim 18, wherein said third node signals the data

specific to said first, second, and third node to said second node, and wherein said second node

transmits the received data specific to said first, second, and third node to said first node.

20. (new): The network according to claim 18, wherein when the second node is

replaced, the new node signals the third node and the first node requesting the data specific to

said second node, wherein the new node uses the received data specific to said second node to

execute at least one of configure the new node and parameterize the new node, and wherein the

first and third nodes are adjacent to the second node.